

Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz

Hourglass

22 March - 21 April, 2012

Opening reception: 22 March 2012, 6-8pm



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tracy Williams, Ltd. is pleased to announce Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz's second solo exhibition with the gallery. *Hourglass* assembles twelve monumental drawings produced during a two-year period in which Pheobus Mumtaz lived and worked itinerantly between Lahore, Pakistan and the United States. Rooted in eschatological concerns that began to enter her life in Lahore, the drawings in *Hourglass* are the direct result of a change of course. Reflecting her turn toward an analogic language of abstraction, these works meditate on zones of transition charged with metaphysical significance. Some of these thresholds are determined by architecture—gates, labyrinths, step pyramids and burial sites—while others refer to the aspirations of spiritual consciousness.

Despite Pheobus Mumtaz's exacting craftsmanship, there is a degree of detachment in her method that contributes to the hieroglyphic quality of her drawings. Like words strung together in a poem, the works assembled in *Hourglass* can be read both independently and in constellation with one another, highlighting points of convergence. Traversing the tactile surfaces of handmade paper and cowhide, Pheobus Mumtaz's images are elaborated through the repetition of small intervals, or formulae. Sensing this rhythm, an attentive eye may travel along each line like fingers moving over a rosary. A series of large, hand drawn mazes echo the rosary's cyclical path. However, having no discrete beginning or end point, the loop defining each maze doubles back on itself repeatedly, suggesting concentric, inner passageways punctuated by narrow doors. These paths imply a traveler who moves toward the center intuitively.

Since 2009 Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz has traveled extensively, living and working in Pakistan, rural Wyoming, New Mexico and most recently, Washington, DC. A graduate of Yale and Columbia, she has exhibited her work internationally, with support from organizations including the New York Foundation for the Arts, Dieu Donn e, the Ucross Foundation, Triple Canopy and the Santa Fe Art Institute. She is currently working toward her first exhibition in Spain, which is being developed in collaboration with La Caja Blanca and the Fondaci o Mir o in Mallorca.

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